

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-4 and 6 remain pending herein.

Claim 4 is amended as set forth above to eliminate the wording objected to in the rejection of claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the U.S. PTO reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

The Applicants appreciate the indication in the May 12, 2005 Office Action that claim 5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of original claim 5, rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim, i.e., claim 1 (there were no intervening claims). Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1, as well as claims 2-4 and 6, each of which depend from claim 1, are in condition for allowance.

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,853,596 (Gibson '596) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,238,330 (Fong '330). Claims 3 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Gibson '596 in view of Fong '330, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,807,487 (Lahti '487). Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Gibson '596 in view of Fong '330, further in view of Mohn.

In view of the above amendment to claim 1 such that it recites the subject matter identified in the May 12, 2005 Office Action as being allowable, and the dependency of claims 2-4 and 6 from claim 1, it is respectfully requested that the U.S. PTO reconsider and withdraw these rejections.

In view of the above, claims 1-4 and 6 are in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes that contact with Applicants' attorney would be advantageous toward the disposition of this case, the Examiner is herein requested to call Applicants' attorney at the phone number noted below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees
associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No.
50-1446.

Respectfully submitted,

August 3, 2005

Date

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